



## Quick Facts

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- More than 90 species of birds have been reported using CRP lands in the Midwest, including large numbers of grassland birds.
- 50 percent of all CRP contracts are in the Midwest Region (381,000 contracts)
- 25 percent of all CRP acres are in the Midwest Region (7.9 million acres)

### Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

- 1/3 of all Fiscal Year 2006 WRP funds went to the Midwest Region (\$79 million dollars)
- 25 percent of all WRP acres are in the Midwest Region (over 400 million acres)

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Midwest Region *Farm Bill*

It has long been recognized that the conservation lands held by federal, state and local government agencies and other conservation groups cannot completely provide for fish and wildlife needs, and that private lands play a critical role in sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations.

Agricultural production accounts for half of the land use in the United States (more than 900 million acres), making the stewards of private lands key resource management partners.

The largest investment of public funds for the conservation of soil, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat on private lands has occurred as a result of the voluntary participation of private landowners in conservation programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the authority of the Farm Bill.

Conservation was incorporated as a major component of the Farm Bill in 1985 with the establishment of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is the largest conservation program administered by USDA and currently has 36 million acres under contract.

In 1990 the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) was added to the Farm Bill and several other programs were added in the following years. Benefits of these programs to fish and wildlife resources and federal trust species depend on how effective the applications of conservation practices are in addressing fish and wildlife resource needs.

Nationwide, 16 million of the 36 million acres currently enrolled in CRP will expire in 2007 and another 8 million in 2010.



The benefits of CRP are not limited to wildlife. Landowners participating in CRP recognize the value of their restored lands.

According to a survey of CRP participants funded by the Farm Service Agency, more than three quarters of respondents believed the CRP benefits to wildlife were important, and nearly 60 percent reported noticing the increased opportunities to observe wildlife on their restored lands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with USDA and our other federal, tribal, state and private partners to realize the full potential of the 2007 Farm Bill to benefit fish and wildlife resources.